UCF tops USF in thriller

South Florida QB Quinton Flowers piles up more than 600 yards of offense and 5 TDs in the 49-42 loss. **Sports, 1C**

Tampa Bay Times

FLORIDA'S BEST NEWSPAPER | tampabay.com | ★★★★ SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2017 | $1

In the know

LIGHTNING GETS TRIPPED UP BY CAPITALS, 3-1

Tampa Bay gets an early power play goal from Vladislav Namestnikov, above, but is held in check for the rest of the game. Washington fires 38 shots on goal to Tampa Bay's 26 in the victory. **Sports, 1C**

Morgan won't run as a Democrat

Lawyer John Morgan tweets that he "can't muster the enthusiasm" to go for the nomination for governor. He says that he'll register as an Independent and that if he ever runs it would be as an Independent. **Local, 1B**

Who's rocking and who's suffering

We look at Tampa Bay's major publicly traded companies to see who is going strong, who is just getting by and who is struggling. **Robert Trigaux column, 4B**

Find the right gift for your loved ones

Whether you're looking to stuff a stocking or splurge, we've got holiday gift ideas for the people on your list, from the water warrior to the yogi. **Personal Best**

Miami's unbeaten run ends, 24-14

The Pittsburgh Panthers put an end to the nation's longest winning streak. Now the No. 2 Hurricanes must wait to see where they land in the next College Football Playoff rankings. **Sports, 6C**

Take advantage of the moment

Zimbabwe's new leader says that the era of "poisoned" politics must be put aside. **World, 4A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly sunny

8 a.m.	Noon	4 p.m.	8 p.m.
60°	72°	74°	67°

10% chance of rain

More, back page of Sports

tampabay.com

Get up and go

Itching for something fun to do but don't know what's going on? Worry not. We give you the rundown on local events at **tampabay.com/things-to-do**.

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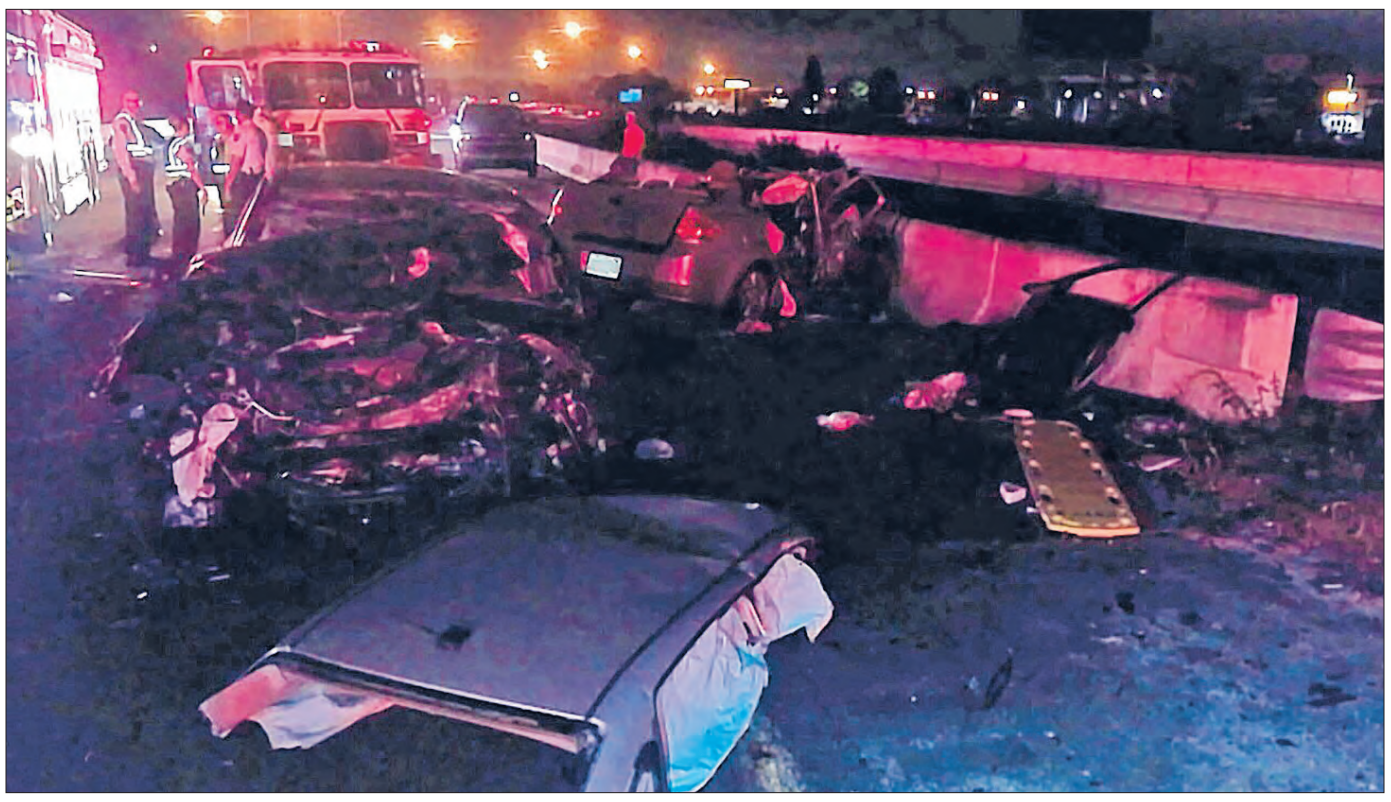

Florida Highway Patrol

Three people died when a wrong-way driver slammed into another car Thanksgiving night on I-75 south of Gibsonton Drive.

Their bright future over in an instant

A newly engaged couple was driving on I-75 when a driver going the wrong way smashed into them.

BY TONY MARRERO
Times Staff Writer

GIBSONTON — Last month, LaShay Waiters got down on one knee and proposed to Yvette Alexandre in front of a room packed with family and friends. She said yes.

About two weeks ago, it was Alexandre's turn to surprise him: She was pregnant. It wasn't planned, but the young couple was excited about being parents.

"They had a great future together," said Waiters' mother, Tamika Snipes.

Now they're gone.

Waiters, 24, and Alexandre, 21, died after a wrong-way driver slammed into the couple's car Thursday night on Interstate 75 near the Gibsonton exit, authorities said.

The wrong way driver, 21-year-old Justin Lakin of Bradenton, also died from the violent head-on crash. The Florida Highway Patrol on Friday was still investigating what led up to the crash.

Along with the grief, the couple's loved ones were grappling with a question no one yet could answer.

Said Alexandre's father, Robert: "I'd like to know why he was driving on the opposite side of the highway."

» See COUPLE, 6A

Courtesy of Robert Alexandre

LaShay Waiters, 24, and Yvette Alexandre, 21, had gotten engaged last month and just found out they were expecting.

Attack kills 235 in Egypt

More than 100 are wounded when Islamic militants fire on a mosque.

Associated Press

CAIRO — In the deadliest-ever attack by Islamic extremists in Egypt, militants assaulted a crowded mosque Friday during prayers, blasting helpless worshipers with gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades and blocking their escape routes. At least 235 people were killed before the assailants got away.

The attack in the troubled northern part of the Sinai Peninsula targeted a mosque frequented by Sufis, members of a mystic movement within Islam. Islamic militants, including the local affiliate of the Islamic State group, consider Sufis heretics because of their less literal interpretations of the faith.

The startling bloodshed in the town of Bir al-Abd also wounded at least 109, according to the state news agency. It offered the latest sign that, despite more than three years of fighting in Sinai, the Egyptian government has failed to deter an ISIS-led insurgency.

President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi said that the attack "will not go unpunished" and that Egypt would persevere with its war on terrorism. But he did not specify what new steps might be taken.

The military and security forces have already been waging a tough campaign against militants in the towns, villages and desert mountains of Sinai, and Egypt has been in a state of emergency for months. Across the country, thousands have been arrested in a crackdown on suspected Islamists as well as against other dissenters and critics, raising concern about human rights violations.

Seeking to spread the violence, militants over the past year have carried out deadly bombings on churches in the capital of Cairo and other cities, killing dozens of

» See EGYPT, 6A

Sources: Associated Press Times

Active shooter class urges action

Largo officers role-play to teach A.L.I.C.E, — Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate.

BY KATHRYN VARN
Times Staff Writer

LARGO — The classroom was full, but the chatter was quiet as the students picked at doughnuts and sipped coffee from paper cups.

Many were strangers to each other, but the reason they showed up at the Largo Police Department on a sunny Saturday morning was their common ground.

"It could never happen ... ," read a cartoon that flashed on a screen at the front of the room. Then, underneath: "Welcome to HERE, your town, USA!"

The 39 students in the class Nov. 18, living in the wake of mass shootings in Las Vegas and Sutherland Springs and Rancho Tehama Reserve back-to-back-to-back, wouldn't be fooled.

It could happen at a Publix, where Karen Plassman worked as a cashier. It could happen at the soccer games John Lodge frequents in England. It could happen — it did happen — at a place of worship, and so the men from Gulf Coast Church came ready with questions on how to protect the Lord's house.

"It seems like this is going to be a sign of the times," said Gail Keefe, a retired nurse who attended with her husband, Arthur.

» See SHOOTER, 7A

Black Friday shoppers adventurers at heart

Sure, they could have stayed at home and shopped online, but where's the thrill in that?

BY ALLI KNOTHE
Times Correspondent

TAMPA — Standing in a frantic line at Best Buy on Thanksgiving, one young woman beat the system when she showed off the receipt for her new TV, which she had just purchased on her phone. She was waiting to pick it up.

"I didn't know you could do that," said Gwen Reynolds McMillian, a frequent online shopper who was also in line to buy a television.

The holiday shopping season kicked off Thursday and Friday for retailers around the country, as more than 114 million consumers were expected to turn out for doorbuster deals on everything from virtual reality headsets to slow cookers.

This year's shoppers were turning out for good deals and a good time.

Like Cathy Munch and her teenage daughter Olivia, of South Tampa, who by 8 a.m. were walking to their car at International

» See SHOPPING, 7A

EVE EDELHEIT | Times

Cece McLeod, Avery Meder and Shae McLeod shop at Bath & Body Works at International Plaza in Tampa on Friday. Some shops offered storewide discounts, others had doorbuster deals.

Green sea turtles have a baby boom

But other types didn't nest so swimmingly.

BY CRAIG PITTMAN
Times Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Despite the way Hurricane Irma battered Florida's beaches, green sea turtles set a record for the number of nests on those beaches in 2017, according to preliminary statewide figures released last week by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The state agency was so delighted by the numbers that it put out a news release touting the record. Biologists counted 39,000 green sea turtle nests full of eggs — up from 10,000 in 2010. That's a marked increase from 20 years ago, when state biologists counted only 464 green sea turtle nests.

But what the news release didn't mention is that other types of sea turtles did not do nearly as well this year.

Loggerhead nests, for

» See TURTLES, 7A